

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-18 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishinaga (U.S. Patent No. 6,476,410) in view of Udagawa (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0141509).

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-18 are allowed. Applicants submit, however, that all of the claims are allowable.

That is, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Ishinaga nor Udagawa (taken alone or in combination) teach or suggest "*wherein said plurality of internal electrodes are disposed such that homopolar electrodes are disposed diagonally*" as recited in claim 19.

However, merely in an effort to speed prosecution, Applicants have canceled claim 19, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-18, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Serial No. 10/775,324
Docket No. T36-164402M/RS

9

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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